

REMARKS

CLAIMS 1-23

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Cao et al. (*Base Noun Phrase Translation Using Web Data and the EM Algorithm*, which appeared in the Proceedings of the 19th International Conference on Computational Linguistics, vol. 1, pages 1-7, August 2002, hereinafter Cao). Claims 13-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cao in view of Official Notice.

Cao does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because it is simply a disclosure of the inventor's own work within a year of the filing date of the present application.

Cao was co-authored by Yunbo Cao and Hang Li. Hang Li is the inventor of the present application. The Cao paper was published within a year of the filing date of the present application. Under MPEP §2132.01, an inventor's disclosure of his own work within a year before the application filing date cannot be used against him under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). In particular, MPEP §2132.01 provides that when an applicant is one of the co-authors of a publication, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) can be overcome by submission of a specific declaration by the applicant establishing that the article is describing applicant's own work.

Attached is a Declaration from the inventor Hang Li indicating that Hang Li co-authored the paper "*Base Noun Phrase Translation Using Web Data and the EM Algorithm*", that Hang Li is the sole inventor of the present invention, and that Yunbo Cao is not an inventor of the invention but instead worked under the direction of Hang Li. In particular, Yunbo Cao was only added as an author to the paper because he performed experiments on the efficacy of the invention conceived by Hang Li. As indicated in MPEP §2132.01, this declaration is sufficient to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Since it is sufficient to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), it is also sufficient to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

With the removal of Cao as a reference, claims 1-23 are in form for allowance.

CLAIMS 24-27

Claims 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoh et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0161569, hereinafter Itoh) in view of Chin et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0029455, hereinafter Chin).

Independent claim 24 provides a method of updating a translation dictionary. The method includes providing two possible translations for a word to at least two clients. An indication is received from each of the clients as to which translation was deemed correct. The indications from the clients are then used to select one of the translations for entry in a translation dictionary.

The invention of claim 24 is not shown or suggested in the combination of Itoh and Chin. In particular, neither reference shows or suggests providing two possible translations for a word to at least two clients and then using indications from the clients to select one of the translations for entry into the translation dictionary. In the Office Action, it was asserted that possible translations for a word are provided to multiple clients by Chin. Applicant respectfully disputes this assertion.

In the Office Action, page 10, paragraph 178 of Chin was cited as showing a step of providing a possible translation to at least two clients so that the clients can indicate a correct translation for updating the dictionary. However, the cited paragraph makes no mention of providing a possible translation to at least two clients so that they may indicate which of the translations was deemed correct. Instead, the cited paragraph states the following: "If a user lacks this ability, the present invention provides a tool for speakers of two different languages to specify jointly the proper translation of a term for the dictionary." There is no mention of providing possible translations to the speakers or how the tool for the speakers works. Instead, it appears that the speakers between themselves propose and agree upon a translation of a term for the dictionary. There is no indication that possible translations are provided to at least two clients or that the clients provide an indication as to which translation was deemed correct.

Further, there is no step of selecting one of the translations based on the indications from the clients. Instead, in Chin, it appears that two users simply propose and agree

upon a possible translation for a term for the dictionary. This can be seen from the sentence before the quoted sentence above, which states that: "Users that have familiarity with the language other than their own can build this dictionary directly." Thus, Chin envisions that the users, through their own knowledge, are able to propose translations for terms and build the dictionary based on their own proposed translations. This is substantially different from the invention of claim 1, where at least two possible translations for a word are provided to at least two clients and the indications from those clients are used to select one of the translations for entry in a translation dictionary.

In addition, it would not be obvious to use indications from at least two clients to select a translation for an entry in a translation dictionary in Itoh. In particular, Itoh discusses constructing a user-specific translation dictionary 48c. This user dictionary is explicitly distinguished from a system dictionary 48a and a plurality of domain dictionaries 48b on page 5, paragraph 52. In particular, the user may modify the user dictionary but not the domain dictionaries or the system dictionary. The reason for this would appear to be that the domain dictionaries and the system dictionaries are for all users and the user dictionary is for a particular user.

Because the user dictionary is user-specific, it would not make sense to collect indications of proper translations from other users when updating a user's dictionary with a new translation. Instead, the user would want their user dictionary to include translations that they think are correct and would not want their dictionary influenced by input from other users. This would help the user to tailor the dictionary to their needs instead of the needs of other users. As such, it would not be obvious from Itoh to select one of a plurality of translations based on indications from at least two clients. Therefore, claim 24 and claims 25-27, which depend therefrom, are not obvious from the combination of Itoh and Chin.

CLAIM 28

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoh in view of Chin and further in view of Furuta (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0009320).

Claim 28 depends from claim 24 and includes a further limitation wherein using an indication from the client to select one translation comprises determining if a translation was deemed correct more than a threshold number of times.

Claim 28 is not shown or suggested in the combination of Itoh, Chin and Furuta. In the Office Action, it was asserted that Furuta shows the limitations of claim 28 on page 3, paragraph 48 and paragraph 44. Applicant respectfully disputes this assertion.

In Furuta, users are able to select a page from a network. The selected page is then applied to an automatic translation system that provides a translation of the page to the user. The user can then grade the translation.

To improve the automatic translation system, Furuta uses a collection of registered translation specialists who translate pages on the network. When a registered translation specialist is ready to translate a new page, he looks for pages that have been requested more than some threshold amount and that have a particular threshold grade. In other words, he looks for pages that are popular and for which the automatic translation system is producing poor translations. The translation specialist forms a single translation of the page that is provided to a natural language pattern learning mechanism 25. The learning mechanism identifies natural language patterns in the single translation and uses that information to update a translation dictionary.

In paragraph 44, Furuta discusses using natural language pattern learning mechanism 25 to generate patterns that are added to a translation dictionary. Note that these patterns are identified from a single translation. In paragraph 48, Furuta discusses which pages should be sent to the registered translation expert for translation. In particular, paragraph 48 refers to the number of times the page was accessed or requested. Note, this is not the number of times a translation has been selected, but instead is the number of times that the document or page has been accessed by a client. Thus, paragraphs 44 and 48 of Furuta do not show or suggest determining if a translation was deemed correct more than a threshold number of times. Instead, they show selecting a document for translation by an expert if the document has been accessed more than a threshold number of times and using the expert's translation to update a dictionary.

Since none of Itoh, Chin or Furuta select a translation by determining if a translation was deemed correct more than a threshold number of times, the invention of claim 28 is not obvious from this combination of references.

CLAIM 29

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoh in view of Chin and further in view of Official Notice.

Claim 29 depends from claim 24 and includes a further limitation comprising not using an indication from a client to select a translation if the client has provided more than a threshold number of indications for a translation.

In the Office Action, Official Notice was taken that it is notoriously well known in the art to restrict the number of times a client can provide an indication by setting a threshold of indications that a client can indicate. Applicant respectfully traverses this taking of Official Notice and requests that the Examiner provide a reference that shows this feature.

Even if it was well-known to restrict the number of times a client can provide an indication by setting a threshold of indications, it would not be obvious to add such a threshold to Itoh and Chin. In particular, since Itoh is building a user specific dictionary, it would not be obvious to set a threshold on the number of times a user may indicate a translation in Itoh. Itoh assumes that whatever translation the user wants in their dictionary is proper. As such, Itoh does not have to contend with the problem of a malicious user attempting to sway a vote count to place a poor translation in a universal dictionary. Instead, since Itoh only affects the user's specific dictionary, it would not care how many times a client provided an indication related to a translation. It would simply update the dictionary as often as the user wanted. Thus, it would not be obvious to add the limitation of claim 29 to Itoh.

CLAIMS 30-33 AND 35

Claims 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Itoh. Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoh in view of Chin.

Claim 30 provides a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a set of steps. The steps include serving a page to a client to solicit a source phrase from the client and receiving the source phrase from the client. Pages are then accessed through a network to identify translations for the source phrase. A page comprising a plurality of candidate translations for the source phrase is returned. The page also includes, for each candidate translation, a page identifier that identifies the page that contains the translation. An indication is received that one of the plurality of candidate translations has been selected on the client as a proper translation of the source phrase. This indication is used to determine whether to add the selected translation to a translation dictionary accessed by a server.

The combination of Itoh and Chin does not show or suggest the invention of claim 30 because neither reference shows or suggest returning a page comprising a plurality of candidate translations for a source phrase. In particular, Itoh does not provide a page having a plurality of candidate translations. Instead, Itoh returns a page with URL links to pages that include the source phrase. There is no guarantee that any of these URL links will link to pages that include a translation for the source phrase.

For example, in FIG. 6 of Itoh, the search results for "Tomo Miyahira" are shown. In the search results, there is no translation for the phrase "Tomo Miyahira" but instead simply a listing of web pages that include the phrase "Tomo Miyahira." The user is then forced to sequentially go through each web page in the hopes that one of the web pages may include a translation for "Tomo Miyahira." There is no guarantee that any of the web pages will include such a translation. Further, forcing the user to go to each web page in search of a translation is inefficient and substantially different from the present invention, in which a page is returned with a plurality of candidate translations.

Note that the invention of claim 30 does something that Itoh is not able to do. In particular, it is able to return a plurality of candidate translations, instead of requiring that the user search through web pages for possible translations. In Itoh, the user is relied upon to identify a possible translation. This is substantially different from claim 30 wherein a page with possible translations are provided to the user and the user is simply asked to select one of the

provided translations.

Since neither Itoh nor Chin return a page comprising a plurality of candidate translations for a source phrase, their combination does not show or suggest the invention of claim 30 or claims 31-33 and 35 which depend therefrom.

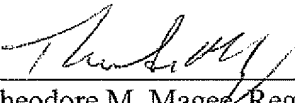
CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, claims 1-33 and 35 are in form for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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